

January 2025

# Northern Skies Newsletter

United Women in Faith Cola Hill, editor

United Women in Faith



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and pa-

## NSD United Women in Faith Leadership Team—Colossians 3:12-14



Jane Yaeger  
Co-President  
2 Chronicles 7:14  
& Micah 6:8



Charlene Sutherby  
Co-President  
John 3:16

Judy Rost  
E&I / Social Action  
Matthew 11:28



Bobbi Sundquist  
E&I / Social Action  
Mark 9:24 &  
Matthew 11:28-30



Kaye Porter  
M, N, & O  
1 Corinthians 13



Nancy Goodyear  
Secretary  
Matthew 6:25-34

Bonnie Picotte  
Program Re-  
sources  
Micah 6:8 &  
John 3:16-17



Susan Wirgau  
Nominations  
Romans 8:28



Connie Kelsey  
Spiritual Growth  
Matthew 22:37-39



Wendy Mulka  
Nominations  
2 Corinthians 2:10

Beth Pelkey  
Treasurer  
1 Corinthians  
13:4-13



Cola Hill  
Communications  
Psalm 139 &  
Jeremiah 29:11



Julia Hulka  
Past President  
Proverbs 3:5-6



Diana Miller  
Conf. Webmaster  
Philippians 4:13

tience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance

against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.



As one of the new co-presidents for Northern Skies District UWFaith, I look forward to working with everyone. Just saying “important” isn’t enough to describe what United Women in Faith does for women, children and youth - it is literally life changing for so many in our towns, nationally and internationally. Since 1997 when I said yes to serving as President of our local unit, I have enjoyed that position and others up to this point. I started as District Coordinator for Spiritual Growth in 2011 and enjoyed coordinating the Spiritual Growth Retreats and serving in that role until this year. I chaired the Conference Committee on Nominations in 2023-24 and remain on the committee representing the Northern Skies District. I encourage all of you to get involved, stay involved, and grow in your involvement.

Remember to register on [uwfaith.mn.co](http://uwfaith.mn.co) to get involved in the digital community. Please contact me if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns! [jyaeger210@gmail.com](mailto:jyaeger210@gmail.com) or call 906.290.1884

Jane Yaeger



I am so excited to serve as your Spiritual Growth Coordinator. I am so thankful for the support and guidance I have received from Jane Yaeger. My husband and I have been married for 34 years. After caring for my mother-in-law for a few years, we moved to Manistique. I have been a member of the First UMC and the local UWFaith unit ever since. For the past three years, I have worked as the church office administrator.

As we move into 2025, let our spiritual growth focus be on carrying our faith forward.



Mark 4:35-41 reminds us that even when we face storms in our lives, Jesus is with us always! As the disciples were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” through spiritual growth, we too, can be stronger in faith.

Our Spiritual Growth Retreat will be held on May 2-3, 2025, at the Comfort Inn in Manistique. Cola Hill will be our speaker this year! She has an idea that God has laid on her heart. It's a work in progress so we'd appreciate your prayers as God continues to lead her.

Connie Kelsey



I’m from Houghton Lake and am one of your Co-Presidents. This is a totally new office for me so I will appreciate all the help I can get. I am also on Nominations. I moved back to my home area from Oakland County three years ago. I lived there for more than 50 years and was very active in the community, church, local government, and more.

Some years ago, I remembered needing more and I remembered finding a place with “UMW.” I went to School of Christian Mission, District events, and Conference events. I loved it. Then life became very busy for me (I decided to go back to college), and I drifted away from UMW. So, I thought that maybe UWFaith would be a good place for me to start again.

There have been a few bumps in the road, but I am happy to give it a try. If you are like me and still need a place to feel needed, we may be the place for you. We still have a few spots to fill on our team. Like the saying goes “Everyone has a place in the choir.” UWFaith is a good group. I am looking forward to growing spiritually, meeting new faces, and seeing the ones I have already met.

Charlene Sutherby



Ever accept an office when you have no idea what you were doing or what was expected of you? Well, I did last fall. I will follow Ruth Sutton as Secretary of Program Resources for Michigan Conference UWFaith. However, I'm not completely lost. I LOVE to read and have participated in the UWFaith Reading Program since 2010. And after the first couple of years I have always done Plan IV, which is 20 books.

Did you read that I LOVE to read and I LOVE to be challenged by what I read? Do I always agree with the author's point of view from the Reading Program? No, not always, nor are we expected to. It's not propaganda, but information from a particular point of view, well thought out and presented. Then I integrate it with what I've found to be true, reasonable, and then go from there.

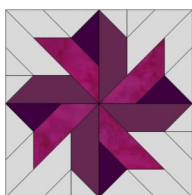
I guess I sort of do know what I've gotten myself into, and I know Ruth will give me her expert guidance. We've worked together since we were co-presidents of Saginaw Bay District ages ago. That's the thing with United Women in Faith. You get help and guidance when you need. We work together! Action – Faith – Love – Now where have I heard those words before? And of course, I will still serve as a Past President for Northern Waters District. Please encourage Jane and Charlene

in their new role as Co-Presidents!

So, go online and check out the current lists of Reading Programs at UWFaith.org and you'll hear more from me later!

Have a Readingly Great 2025 and see you in your little Zoom boxes on March 15th for Power of Bold Day!

Julia Hulka



Hello! I am your secretary. That means that I record everything that happens at our District UWFaith meetings. I attend church at Michelson UMC in Grayling where I have lived for the past 24 years. I would love to invite you to join this great team of women leaders. I have learned so much since I joined the District Team and you will, too. And I promise you, you will also have some great fun, make some memories, and learn a lot!! United Women in Faith has been around for more than 150 years and has always been a great Christian service group. Please come join me!!

Nancy Goodyear



Social Action and Education & Interpretation have been combined and will be coordinated by two sisters, Judy Rost and Bobbi Sundquist. Both are from Menominee, the southernmost town in the UP at 60 miles North of Green Bay.

We have both served in various positions at the local and District level (Judy longer than Bobbi even though she is younger) but have not served in this new capacity. We hope the learning curve isn't too steep!

As you know, UWFaith will continue to work for Climate Justice and Ending Mass Incarceration of communities of color, including the school to prison pipeline. Our work is not done. These are complex issues without easy solutions. Therefore, we need to continue educating ourselves and others so that we can act effectively. According to Response magazine, 40% of local units are engaged in at least one of these priorities. Is your unit one of them?

Here are some websites to check out:

[uwfaith.org/climate-justice](http://uwfaith.org/climate-justice)

[uwfaith.org/mass-](http://uwfaith.org/mass-incarceration)

[incarceration](http://uwfaith.org/mass-incarceration)

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There are also books in the Reading Program that focus on these issues. The Jan/Feb 2025 *response* magazine has an excellent article highlighting the efforts UWFaith has been making. Did you know we have had an Environmental & Economic Justice Office since the 1990s and that we have advocated for Climate Justice at the United Nations?!

**The 2024 Mission Today Unit Objectives** are due to Bobbi by Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. It is confusing since we just recognized units at our celebration this fall. However, that was for 2023. You will find the form attached with this newsletter. It has been suggested that you complete the form for 2024 now but make another copy to fill out for 2025 as the year unfolds.

Bobbi Sundquist & Judy Rost



I have been attending the United Methodist Church in Iron Mountain, MI all my life. I am in the choir. I was so amazed after the first spiritual growth retreat I went to 25 years ago. There were so many women that were active in their church and community. The singing was

amazing! I love talking to women from all over, singing, and sharing ideas.

I have been on the Nominations Committee before. We were extras then and I was the memorial person for two years calling names of those past and I gave out bulbs to be planted in their name. I was so impressed with the ceremony done by Kaye Porter and her friend. I'm praying for others in the area to be as adventuresome as myself.

Wendy Mulka



I am the chairperson of the Committee on Nominations and we are wanting to have a list of people who are interested in serving on the Leadership Team. So, if you have any interest, please let me know. There are lots of roles to fill or you can work with one of our chairpersons to assist..... But for now, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I live in Petoskey, MI, and I have a husband and two adult children and a grandson. One of our children lives with us as he has a developmental disability. As age progresses, my ability to move physically is chal-

lenged, but I do what I can do. Sometimes, I think I can do more than I am able to do! I'm sure some of you can relate to this. I love the Lord and wish to continue to serve United Women in Faith in His precious name. You may contact me through text or email or phone if you have any questions or if you have interest in serving on our team.

Susan Wirgau



Greetings from Ontonagon. The view outside is beautiful: White snow covering everything. It is definitely a "normal" winter in the U.P. this year.

The 2024 Reading Program lists will be due by March 31, 2025. Thank you to all the units that have already sent their lists to me.

In 2024, two books that I probably would not have read were *The Sum of Us* and *The Nickel Boys* but, they were chosen by Ruth Sutton (Secretary of Program Resources of the Michigan Conference), for two book discussions which she led via Zoom. These books are "eye and heart openers" about circumstances and situations that have been present in our

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country in the past and how it has affected our country then and now. I also recommend *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* (2023) and *The Book Woman's Daughter* (2025). All these books are eligible for 2025 Reading Program credit. If you have any questions, please contact me. Hoping that you all have a blessed year.



I am starting my second year as the Treasurer of the Northern Skies District United Women in Faith. I thank you for your patience during 2024 which was my first year in this position. I live in Alpena, MI and am a member of the Ossineke United Methodist church, just south of Alpena. I also serve on Northern Skies District as Co-Lay Leader, serving the southern region of the District.

Just a few reminders as we move forward in 2025:

□ Please keep a copy of your remittance and your cancelled check will be your receipt. If you need a receipt, please request it and I will email, or please send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a hard copy.

□ When you have an SMR (special mission recognition) donation, please complete the SMR form to go along with that. Please send them early enough, as I order those through my monthly submission and there may be a delay. I do not know how long it takes to receive them.

□ Send all treasurer remittances to me, and let me know if you need me to email you copies.

Beth Pelkey



**Our 2023 Unit Survey is here! As a leader in United Women in Faith, you play a vital role in shaping the future of our mission. The insights of the women from your conference help us to shape the future of our organization's progress, fueling our shared goals to expand membership, build funding, and make a greater impact in our communities and the world.**

**The survey link is available on the Members & Leaders Portal for you to complete and/or share. 10-15 mins to complete.**

**If you are not already logged into the Members and Leaders Portal, you will be asked to log in first. Then click 'Unit Survey' under Quick Links.**

**If you are filling out the sur-**

**vey, please locate and access your region > conference survey link > and then follow the steps from there.**

**There is a sample survey available, which is meant to act as a guide for the survey questionnaire and showcase the questions asked. Please note: the National Office will NOT be accepting any paper submissions.**

**Survey closes March 31, 2025**

**Remember, the unique perspectives of our members, women like you, women out in the world today, are invaluable as we work to strengthen our sisterhood and continue the work we do on behalf of women, children and youth.**

**We look forward to your support and the input of the leaders in your networks— together, we are advancing a legacy of faith in action!**

**If you have any general questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office**

**at: [Membership@uwfaith.org](mailto:Membership@uwfaith.org) or me directly, at the contact info below. Warmly,**

**Ebony Y. Diaz, Director of Membership & Engagement (Membership Office, UWFaith)**



**New Members?  
Deceased Members?**

**Please send their information to  
Kaye Porter  
4104 Clara Rd.**



**Onaway, MI 49765  
[rr.ranchporterlady@gmail.com](mailto:rr.ranchporterlady@gmail.com)**

Northern Skies District UWFaith  
Cola Hill, Communications Coordinator  
7299 Reynolds Rd  
Elmira, MI 49730

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# JANUARY 2025



## LOOKING AHEAD!

### **Power of Bold Day**

Saturday, March 15, 2025 (10:00–Noon EST)

Via ZOOM only (see flyer for details)

### **Spiritual Growth Retreat**

Fri. & Sat., May 2-3, 2025

Manistique, MI (see flyer for details)



### **Annual Celebration & Business Meeting**

Details Coming Soon

***Our Purpose:*** We are...a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.